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Massachusetts Branch.

A dodger entitled "Who is to Foot the Bills?" was prepared and distributed widely before the passage of the military and naval appropriation bills, giving significant facts and figures, instructions to those interested in holding up or modifying these acts, and a list of the Senators and Representatives to be approached relative to them. Among small leaflets widely issued is "Constructive Preparedness," as follows: An International Court, an International Council of Conciliation, a joint boycott against any nation that makes war without submitting its case, an International Congress. For distribution also is a copy of a letter from a resident of Mexico, detailing the reasons against intervention, concluding with the paragraph: "It is ridiculous to say that 'Mexico has no government.' It would be more truthful to say that 'the present Mexican Government is not acceptable to certain foreign interests.' It will never give to them the concessions that Diaz gave to them at the expense of the Mexican people."

JOINING THE ISSUE

Controversy over a fact, affirmed by one side and denied by another, is known in law as an "issue." Taking up the two sides respectively is called "joining the issue." A great need of the peace movement in the argument with its opponents is first to "join the issue." With this aim in view this department was started in our August number, and it is hoped that many of our readers will be stirred to add their wisdom to this process of "joining the issue." Any intelligent contribution to the problem, if not too long, will be welcomed.—THE EDITOR.

MR. SIMEON STRUNSKY, in the New York *Evening Post*, rises to comment upon a well-known American quack remedy, as follows:

"When it is a question of our children, no parent in the world is as sensible of his obligation to his children as the American parent or as eager to find some one to perform that obligation for him.

The old-fashioned way would be to forbid your little ones to stuff themselves on ice-cream cones; but our modern system calls for two lectures a week by the school physician on the sanitation of the body, with special emphasis on the digestive process, illustrated by stereopticon slides and moving pictures. Obviously the only way to teach your boy self-control and respect for his elders is to have the Government lick the boy for you. It doesn't make out a bad case for compulsory military training, but the systems should be extended so as to embrace the ice-cream habit. Especially when you consider that the two evils are probably very closely related. A consistent diet of nut sundaes and ice-cream cones is apt to undermine the most robust sentiment of filial obedience and respect.

Only I imagine that the Kaiser and the General Staff must smile now and then as they glance through our newspaper headlines. I mean when they read in one column that Prussian militarism is the enemy of civilization and democracy, and when they read in another column that America wants compulsory military service to teach a boy to say "Yes, sir," and not to whistle at the breakfast table. "The difference between Prussian militarism and American democracy is apparently this, my dear Hindenburg," says the Kaiser. "You and I want

militarism in order to destroy the British Empire, to conquer Africa for German colonists, to extend German civilization in the Orient, but Governor Whitman needs compulsory military service to cure American boys of the cigarette habit. You know, of course, that politics in America are in a bad way because the decent citizen is too tired to run the government and leaves it to the bosses. Now, universal military drill will give the tired business man the sort of civic bracer he fails to get out of golf. If we have a dozen problems, we look for a dozen solutions. Over there they get one big device that solves everything—military service, or eugenics, or boy scouts, or sex-education." There is an obvious economy in having one cure for everything from toothache to fatty degeneration of the Monroe Doctrine. It is so easy to apply and so easy to discard."

Military Training.

I can hardly conceive of a more threatening ill for our country than the introduction of military training in our public schools. The statement that it need not encourage militarism is absurd, for you can no more have military training without developing a military mind than you can pour ink into water and not discolor the water. The threatened evil is far-reaching, inasmuch as its success would place the hand of militarism upon every boy in the land. The purpose to secure throughout the United States compulsory education is in itself a great and worthy end—if that were the end—but to couple with it compulsory military training means nothing less than to militarize the nation. There is not an advantage claimed for it but what can be obtained by other and better methods. A well-equipped gymnasium is better for physical culture; good rules and regulations wisely applied will secure discipline; able lectures on great national events, past and present, will keep the fire of patriotism burning, while the constant inculcation of high ideals will aid much in producing superb character. Nor should we overlook the moral and spiritual phase of the question. Shall we raise a race to believe that might, rather than right, should rule; that force, though it should express itself in human slaughter, is more necessary than international law and justice? The public schools have our boys at their most impressionable age; war permits deception, cruelty, destruction and death, and as you cannot separate these from militarism, neither can you separate militarism from military training. What are we training for—a nation of men of noble impulses that will lead the world along paths of peace and happiness, or a nation of barbarians, veneered it may be by modernism, but following the way of blood and greed as the nations that have gone before? Let us halt before we follow in their wake.

J. J. HALL.

ATLANTA, GA.

To the general discussion of the evils of war Dr. Frank Crane adds a new note, appearing, in one of his copyrighted articles, as Devil's Advocate. Here he points out that a truly shrewd and sensible devil does not attempt to secure souls through the evil in their natures, but through the good in them. In a paper entitled "If I Were the Devil" he declares:

"If I were the Devil I would be not only cruel and wicked, but I would be exceeding cunning, by so much as the gods exceed men. I would know that men do not love to do things because they are bad, but only because they have persuaded themselves that those things are good. Hence I would not waste time trying to pervert men's conscience, but I would twist their reason, estop and becloud their intelligence, so that in doing the most hideous and hateful business they would "verily think they did God's service."

The most delightful condition, to me as the Devil, into which I could possibly throw mankind is war. Here, and here alone, every one of my instincts have full scope and satisfaction. Here is the destruction of human beings carried on with every accompaniment of diabolism. Here they are the Devil's own true children, and farthest from being children of my enemy, the Most High. Here is murder, not the cheap and shame-faced knifing or shooting by the drunken thug in some dark alley, but murder beautiful, magnificent, where a thousand men are dismembered by one salvo, or lie quivering and shrieking on the ground after a charge; where trenches swarm with human creatures going mad with noise and terror, sitting with gangrened wounds in muddy water, suffocated with the stink of their dead companions, fly-blown and maggot-eaten by their side, or falling asleep from exhaustion while my rats eat their living cheeks and lips.

Oh, war is a sweet feast to me, and I certainly laugh loud and long at my old enemy, the Almighty, to think how his boasted goodness and wisdom have collapsed.

Add to murder the cruelty of vain and petty officers driving their men into sure destruction, and horrors of the civilians hunted from their homes, shot down at their own thresholds or burned alive in the fire of their own goods, and the old women brained for sheer deviltry, and the nameless crimes committed upon the young women, and their children stamped out by military heel like scampering mice; and over all the blare of unchecked hate, the sound of blasphemy, the ribald songs of the raging war-men, the futile prayers smashed by mailed fists upon the palsied mouths that utter them, the whole hoarse rattle and roar swinging up in a majestic orchestration and hallelujah chorus worthy of hell's gala day.

And I would make men do this from the best and highest motives they have; they should talk of religion and duty to God, and of devotion to the fatherland, and of heroism and nobleness, and—ha, ha!—those who decline to engage in this welter should be shamed and called cowards and weaklings and public enemies. And I would so manipulate government that men would engage in this reek of fury for no reason at all. A few diplomats would dupe the people into it. I would utterly kill off all common sense, and reason, and intelligence, so that men could not possibly come together peaceably and adjust their differences. I would raise such a cloud of race-hate, national vanity, military prestige, perverted patriotism, and mob-madness that no man could see the counsels of wisdom or humanity. I would glorify all this diabolism of destruction with the utmost enthusiasm, bands playing, men singing, priests and preachers telling them how they were serving Jesus, statesmen vaunting the bravery and manliness of the murderers, women adoring them and praying for them,

and little children standing by admiring their gay uniforms.

I would confine all the joy and efficiency of team-play to war, and make men compete in sordid individualism in times of peace. I would make men look upon all this useless, wholesale murder as practical, and regard every effort to substitute intelligent co-operation as Utopian, the vagary of theorists, the mewling of molycoddles. I would have wise men speak of war as rescuing idealism, and saving nations from the rot of materialism, and persuade them it is a necessity, and that wars must always be because it is "human" nature. . . . And all this I would strengthen and solidify by tradition and custom, making the whole inertia of the race to assist me in its spoiling.

This I would do, if I were the Devil. Still, I do not think I could do it half so well, after all, as Beelzebub himself is now doing it."

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

GENTLEMEN: To my mind there are two kinds of preparedness advocates—those who make money out of war and preparedness for war, and are therefore in the game as a business, and the generally misled general public. With the former there is no use arguing, and the only way to touch them and make them less radical "patriots," as they call themselves, is by taking the profit out of war and preparedness for war.

The other kind, viz., the general public, is a harder nut to crack. They have been so much aroused and excited by the propaganda of the militarists, the afore-said patriots, that they come to the conclusion that only he can be a real patriot and really love his country who believes in the theory that compulsion of other nations to believe as we do is the proper course to pursue.

Our worthy friend who contributed to the July issue of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*, and who signed as "Disgusted," is apparently of the latter type. He has no patience with those advocating arbitration and deliberation, and believes that pacifists are an insult to red-blooded Americanism. If red-blooded Americanism means advocating and supporting disputes, then I don't want to be an American. Fortunately, however, real Americanism stands for higher things, and the real enemy of righteousness, freedom, personal liberty, etc., as Americanism is often defined, is the very maniac who is using these terms in order to make his bloody and murderous policy easier to swallow.

I am convinced that if our correspondent had carefully read the pamphlet "Preparedness Parades" with an unprejudiced mind he would not have written the silly letter that he did.

A REAL PATRIOT.

DENTON, TEXAS.

SIR: The August number of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* has been read with pleasure. "Our Duty to Mexico" is very opportune. Copies ought to be sent to the Mexican border. Our soldiers there are at leisure, and could while away their time by reading your very worthy magazine. That distracted country must be treated with much consideration. A man rising from his bed of sickness is not yet to be treated as he will be when he has entirely recovered. Mexico is yet in delirium. If we are perfectly healthy we shall know how to treat it.

RAYMOND VERNIMONT.